UNFPA
United Nations Population Fund

POPULATION

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Governing Council: All eyes on "the field"

BROAD-RANGING RESOLUTIONS adopted during the 1991 session of UNFPA's Governing Council aim to strengthen the Fund's programmes and presence in the countries it assists. The decisions affect operations, staffing, and facilities. They are intended to improve cost-effectiveness and support to country programmes.

Meeting in New York 3-25 June, the Council approved UNFPA's request for authority to spend up to US$ 201.3 million for programmes for 1992. It passed the UNFPA 1992-95 intercountry programme, which is made up of the interregional programme and regional programmes for sub-Saharan Africa, Arab States and Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fifteen country and sub-regional programmes were also given the Council's blessings: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Congo, Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia, and the English-speaking Caribbean sub-region.

More field presence

Resolutions aimed directly at improving the Fund's field activities include one establishing seven new field posts for international professionals—six of them country directors—and 90 new regular local posts, 19 of them national programme officers and 71, local general service staff.

The new country directors will be in Ecuador, Honduras, Mauritania, Myanmar, North Korea, and Syria. A new international programme officer will be stationed in Fiji.

The Council stressed the importance of enhancing the co-ordination of population activities at the national level, and asked the Executive Director to submit to its 1992 session draft guidelines on national execution of UNFPA-sponsored programmes and projects.

Closer collaboration and co-ordination with other international agencies, particularly the Fund's partners in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) was another major theme in Council debate.

Better support, fewer costs

Observers called the Council's decision on UNFPA successor support cost arrangements a programming landmark. The arrangements aim to "contribute an efficient, effective and coherent marshalling of many sources of experience and expertise" to developing countries, as one Council document put it. "Hence, in-country expertise in many developing countries will benefit by being reinforced and supplemented with high-quality, short-term outside technical resources that can be made available in a timely manner."

The Council authorized UNFPA to allocate US$ 130.3 million, or a sum not to exceed 13.8 per cent of programmable resources, for technical support services and for administrative and operational services during the four years 1992-95. The calculation is based on a compensation agreement with executing agencies of 7.5 per cent of the project costs of implementing country programmes. In this scheme, slated to take effect 1 January 1992, UNFPA's financial burden will be lightened from the current 13 per cent of project costs.

Under the arrangement, it is envisaged that 120 posts for country programme technical support teams—groups of trouble-shooters—will be established, along with 44 specialist and co-ordinator posts at UN agency headquarters, regional offices, and commissions.

Reviewing the past year, the Council expressed appreciation for the Fund's work in promoting awareness of the connections between population, the environment, and development. It also expressed satisfaction with the 1991 State of World Population report, and called for increased public information activities.

The Council noted the recent report on contraceptive requirements and demand for contraceptives in developing countries in the 1990s and asked UNFPA to develop and refine country-specific estimates of contraceptive needs and related logistics that would take into account condom requirements to prevent the spread of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes it, and, where feasible, to help set up local contraceptive factories at countries' request.

Countries were urged to make voluntary contributions to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. UNFPA's preparations for the Conference were noted. A number of countries have pledged money for the meeting; others have offered to host it.

The Council recognized in principle the need to establish an internal audit unit within UNFPA. It also recommended to the UN General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that formal authority in matters of UNFPA personnel be delegated directly to the Executive Director. The Council welcomed the increasing proportion of women on the UNFPA staff; the Fund leads the UN system in recruiting women to professional posts. □

UN/Nagata

TAKING A READING. Much is said about women, particularly in development circles. Yet, until now, their lives, their contributions, and their aspirations have never been comprehensively chronicled. A pioneering United Nations study finds that "men and women indeed function in different worlds" some fifteen years after the United Nations Decade for Women was launched. See "A woman's place," page 4.

Population laureates stress human rights

THE WINNERS OF this year's United Nations Population Award said family planning is essential to human rights and dignity.

"We are joined in an effort to ensure that every child is a wanted child, and that mothers and fathers have the human right to plan their families and to have access to the information and services needed to accomplish this," Julia Henderson, who shared this year's award with CEPAR (*Centro de Estudios de Población y Paternidad Responsable*), a non-governmental organization in Ecuador.

CEPAR Executive Director Betty Proaño said population programmes are essential to ensure that people can "live in a manner consistent with human dignity."

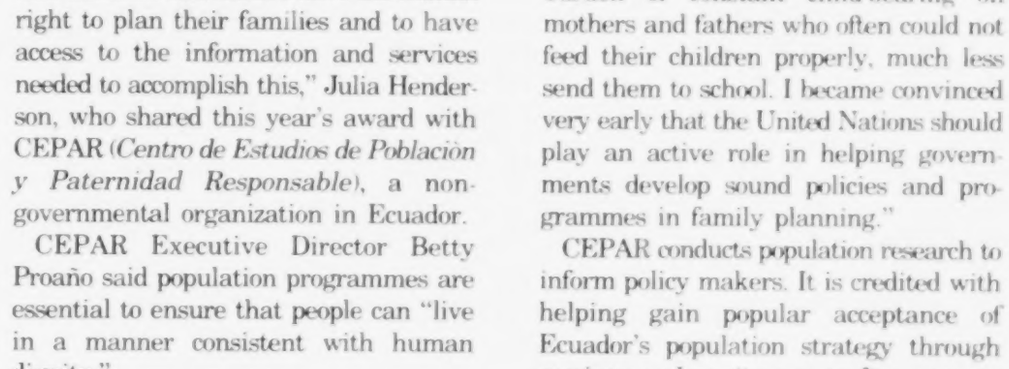
CEPAR and Ms. Henderson received their prizes—a diploma, a gold medal, and US$ 10,000 each—on 20 June at a ceremony in the United Nations Trusteeship Council chamber.

Henderson, an American, served on the original preparatory committees for the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. In 1971, she left the UN to become Secretary General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Since 1978,when she retired, she has served as a volunteer and consultant to population organizations such as UNFPA and IPPF.

Looking back to the mid-1950s, Henderson recalled: "As I travelled in the villages and cities of [developing countries], I became much more aware of the burden of constant child-bearing on mothers and fathers who often could not feed their children properly, much less send them to school. I became convinced very early that the United Nations should play an active role in helping governments develop sound policies and programmes in family planning."

CEPAR conducts population research to inform policy makers. It is credited with helping gain popular acceptance of Ecuador's population strategy through seminar and media events. It counts on UNFPA's "active role."

Proaño explained: "Initiatives . . . by the United Nations Population Fund make it apparent, at the national level, that an opportunity exists for promoting actions and programmes designed to improve the living conditions of families, and at the international level they afford grounds for hope that the possibility of receiving the resources that countries need to deal with their most important population problems is not a remote one." □



UNFPA/Brian Alpert

Left to right: UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik, Julia Henderson, UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, and CEPAR Executive Director Betty Proaño.

Pakistan grasps its population nettle

by Mushahid Hussain

PAKISTAN'S LEADERS HAVE not been able to muster the political will to establish a strong family planning programme in this Islamic country.

But that seems to be changing. Horrified by projections that show the country's population doubling in 23 years, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif formally launched a new population plan on 11 July—World Population Day—at a government press conference in Islamabad, the capital. It was the first time in 25 years that a Pakistani head of government made a public commitment to slow population growth.

Unless urgent action is taken, Pakistan's population could double to 230 million by 2014, making the country the "laughing stock of the world," Sharif said.

"This means that even if we succeed in doubling our food output, our schools and colleges, our hospitals and clinics, our roads and highways and the number of housing units, the standard of living of our people would not have improved a bit at the end of the year 2014," he added.

The government plans to bring down the growth rate from the current estimated 3.1 per cent per year to 2.5 per cent within the next 10 years.

"Past governments gave lip service to the population programme. This time, we are launching a new integrated approach with the full support of the leadership," said Syeda Abida Hussain, who heads the Ministry of Population Welfare.

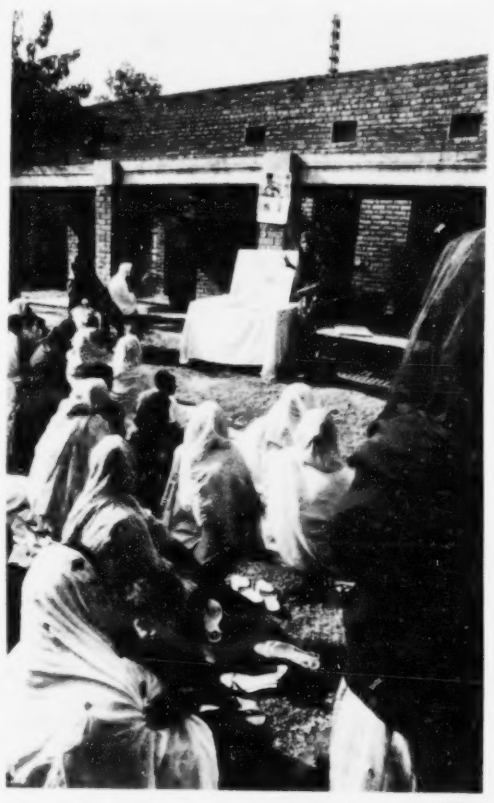
Pakistan has the world's ninth largest population, and much of the advice it is getting is coming from Indonesia, another predominantly Muslim Asian country.

Abida Hussain's ministry is charged with co-ordinating the programme. She says the new integrated approach will stress a population education curriculum in Pakistan's secondary schools. The format is copied from a successful Indonesian curriculum that demographers say helped the government in Jakarta to slow that country's rate of population growth.

Under the new plan, "family planning objectives will be combined with those of the health, education, and communication programmes of the government," Abida Hussain said. "It will be a holistic approach."

Population activities will be linked up with elected grassroots bodies. For example, government funding to local councils will be tied to their performance in promoting voluntary contraceptive use.

The plan will work not only through the country's existing 2,700 family welfare centres, but also the government's health facilities. The focus of the programme will be to use mobile services to promote birth-spacing and provide mother and child health care.



UNFPA/Lily Solmssen

A new sense of urgency: Learning about family planning at a monthly Mothers' Club meeting in Lahore.

Underpinning the new drive are some stark statistics: The government estimates that over 40 per cent of all births are "high risk." The 1980 housing census found between 30 and 40 per cent of all urban homes lacked electricity, piped water, and toilets. An effective population programme could save 300 babies a day and prevent urban populations from quadrupling over the next 30 years, experts say.

Indonesia, with some 183 million people, has the world's fifth largest population. Being predominantly Muslim, it is regarded as having similar social conditions to Pakistan.

Earlier this year, UNFPA sent a five-member team to advise the Pakistani government on ways to revive its population programme.

The team was led by Haryono Suyono, head of Indonesia's National Family Planning Co-ordinating Board, and Saad Raheem Sheikh, head of UNFPA's Asia and Pacific Division.

"Now is the best time to do what's needed," Sheikh said after the mission. "There is a lot of awareness of the serious population problems facing Pakistan."

UNFPA says senior Pakistani officials are now convinced about the need to act decisively, and credit the Suyono report as well as efforts by Executive Director Nafis Sadik—herself a Pakistani—to goad politicians into action.

"We are encouraged by the government's new-found commitment to population," Abida Hussain said, pointing proudly to the fact that population welfare was the only ministry, besides defence, that did not see a budget cut this year.

The government is investing some US$ 64 million in its population programme this year. About one-third of the budget is supported by international institutions such as UNFPA. The rest is from the Pakistan government itself. *(IPS)* □

UNFPA promotes South-South co-operation

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION among developing countries (TCDC) "must become an integral part of all technical co-operation activities and the main vehicle for knowledge transfer and capacity building," UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) Joseph Van Arendonk says.

TCDC is jargon for mutual self-help. It involves government and other institutions in developing countries sharing their experiences, experts, and technical resources with each other. In population programmes, its most common forms include the regional pooling of demographers and other experts, sharing models for conducting censuses and sample surveys, and clinical and academic training.

"We're not just talking about the buying and selling of products. We're talking about social change. When we play that kind of a role, co-operation at a more local and regional level, within and between developing countries, is absolutely necessary," says Wasim Zaman, UNFPA's "focal point," or staffer in charge of keeping tabs on TCDC.

Zaman, who is also deputy chief of the Interregional/NGO (non-governmental organization) branch of UNFPA's Technical and Evaluation Division, and others are working on a guide to TCDC for the Fund's field offices. The booklet, he says, will outline the "whats and hows of TCDC in population work." The idea is to "foster a higher level of awareness among field offices to look for new ideas and opportunities to promote TCDC," so they can get developing-country governments, institutions, and experts in touch with each other, help them set up collaborative projects, and help them monitor and refine these projects.

UNFPA is also working on improving the population content of leading databases such as "INRES South," which is operated by the United Nations Development Programme, Van Arendonk says. TCDC databases are intended to help developing countries locate and tap their neighbours' resources—experience, qualified personnel, equipment.

According to Van Arendonk, UNFPA-supported TCDC activities in the past two years include: capacity-building through regional training centres, where national officials can bone up on the latest skills in demography, programme management, and service delivery; regional research and studies, such as PAPCHILD, the pan-Arab maternal and child health survey, and the South Asian Study on Population Policy and Programmes; and contraceptive production, quality control, and distribution within and between developing countries.

Van Arendonk addressed the biennial meeting of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries when it met in New York in May. □

Uganda census reveals turmoil's toll

YEARS OF CIVIL WAR have taken a demographic toll on Uganda, according to government analysis of preliminary census results.

The provisional results of this year's national head-count show a total population of about 16.6 million Ugandans, as against a 1990 United Nations estimate of 18.8 million. The population growth rate slowed significantly, from 2.7 per cent a year in the 1970s to 2.5 per cent annually during the past 11 years.

Government officials were surprised by these figures because there was no corresponding decline in fertility.

Minister for Planning and Economic Development Mayanja-Nkangi announced the results in Kampala on 24 June. He said a demographic and health survey conducted in 1988 and 1989 showed no change in Uganda's fertility rates since the 1970s. "It also showed that the infant mortality rate which stood at 119 babies [for every thousand live births] in 1969 had fallen to 108 per 1,000 in 1988. Thus one would have expected a higher population figure," he told journalists.

But many died during the 1980-85 civil war, which also forced many Ugandans to flee the country for "security and economic reasons," Mayanja-Nkangi said.

The ratio of men to women in Uganda has also fallen: There were 101.8 men for every 100 women in 1969, 98.2 in 1980, and 96.1 on 11 January, this year's census day.

"Explanation for this state of affairs lies mainly with the country's recent social-military and political history," according to the government's provisional census report.

AIDS could be another factor, Mayanja-Nkangi said. Although the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome has taken its toll, he said, mortality rates had also risen due to a decline in health care services.

"I do not deny that AIDS exists," Mayanja-Nkangi was quoted as saying by the daily *New Vision*. "AIDS is there, but we should not talk as if there won't be anyone living in Uganda tomorrow."

Mayanja-Nkangi cautioned that the results are preliminary ones, and that "investigations are continuing to establish the decline" in Uganda's population growth rate. □

UNICEF/Gamblin

Child soldier, Uganda. Despite high fertility rates, population growth slowed over the past decade. Years of civil war and emigration are thought to be the main reason.

Asia-Pacific speaks out on the environment

"Share the green burden"

by Surya Gangadharan

ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE demanding that the industrialized world "share the green burden" by giving financial and technical aid for environmental protection.

In two recent conferences, regional leaders said industrialized countries were mainly responsible for global environmental degradation and were therefore obliged to help "with no strings attached."

"Developed countries, in view of their main responsibility for environmental degradation and their greater financial and technological capabilities, must take the lead in eliminating the damage to the environment as well as assisting the developing countries to deal with the problems facing them," read the declaration of a June ministers' conference on environment and development held in Beijing.

The conference, attended by representatives from 41 countries, was a preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Rio de Janeiro next year.

A meeting of senior officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Singapore, meanwhile, charged the industrialized world with "green imperialism" and demanded that these countries share the environmental burden by adopting "suitable" trade and fiscal measures.

ASEAN officials emphasized that developing countries are looking for a fair solution. "There cannot be one set of standards for them and another for us," one official said of the industrialized countries.

The Singapore meeting was called to hammer out an ASEAN stance at the Rio conference. There is apprehension in Southeast Asia that the region's fast-track economies could be derailed if the Earth Summit does not take into account the region's problems and needs.

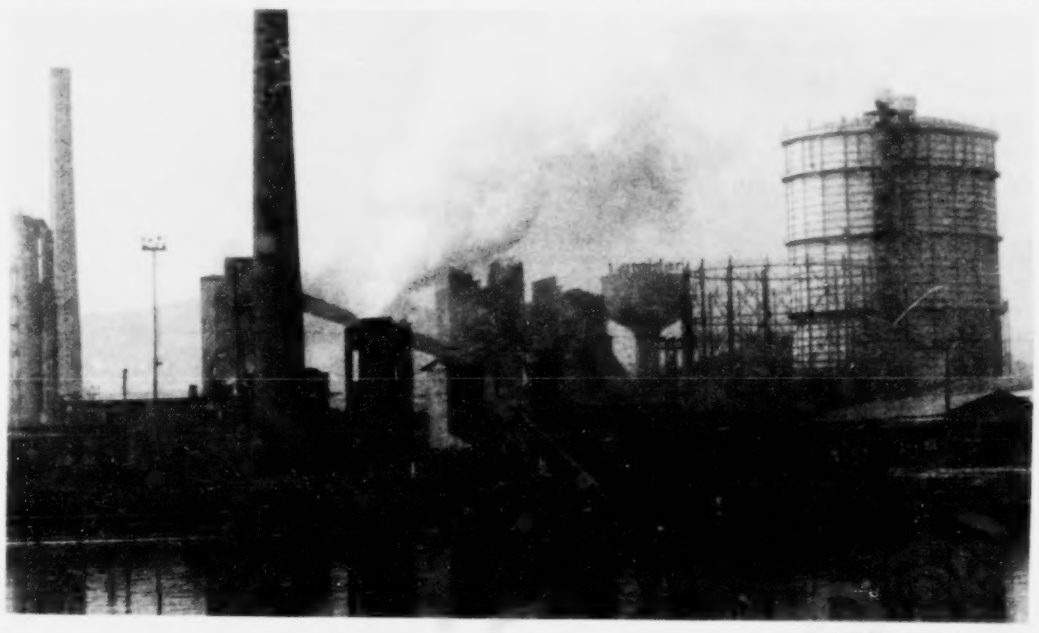
Asia contains 20 per cent of the world's forests, more than half of them in ASEAN countries. The region also produces 16 per cent of industrial roundwood and most of the tropical hardwood.

Participants at the Singapore meeting decried accusations by environmental groups in industrialized countries, of the massive denuding of "the lungs of the Earth," which refers to the region's rapidly disappearing rainforests. They contend that the destruction of forests is not the only issue.

"If we want to globally reduce pollution problems, it is also important for advanced countries to control their pollution," one Indonesian delegate said.

He said industrialized countries, with barely 25 per cent of the world's population, consume 75 per cent of its energy.

"If the United States were to halve its per capita energy consumption, the country would only use as much energy per capita as France does today," said Singapore-based environment journalist Nirmal Ghosh. "Unfortunately, there would be few votes in support of such a proposal, which means it will remain just a good idea." *(IPS)* □



FAO/Camillo Boscardi

Satanic mills: Industrial countries need to do more to reduce pollution, Asians say.

An "eco-industrial revolution"

WHAT THE WORLD needs now is an "eco-industrial revolution," according to a declaration adopted in Tokyo last month by the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific.

The revolution has "at least five" components, according to the declaration by ministers, parliamentarians, and municipal officials of major cities from 22 countries, as well as business leaders, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs):

"First, society must move away from over-reliance on non-renewable sources of energy such as fossil fuels. Second, developed nations must provide environmentally sound technologies which are low-cost, low-impact, and recycling-oriented. Third, we must create new economic models and instruments to ensure that the true costs of decisions which affect the environment are adequately internalized and reflected in market prices. Fourth, a new model of industrialization, different from that of the industrialized or newly industrializing countries, is needed. Fifth, there is an institutional need for broad-based participation and constant dialogue among planners, financiers, and development specialists."

The declaration outlines a "substantial reform of industry itself": "Instead of conventional end-of-pipe approaches for pollution control, the introduction of production processes and products designed to minimize environmental impacts by reducing resource use, maximizing resource efficiency, and minimizing waste generation, is the essence of new industrial design."

"The time for far-reaching change has come," the Congress stated. "We confirm that the issues of population, poverty, and the environment are inseparable. Human development should therefore be the primary consideration in our endeavour to achieve sustainable growth." UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Policy and Administration) Katsuhide Kitatani attended the 4-5 July meeting.

The declaration is being submitted to UNCED, the 1992 "Earth Summit." It recognizes "that developed countries have major responsibilities and greater opportunities to improve current social and economic mechanisms by transforming the structures of production, consumption, trade, and citizens' lifestyles into environmentally friendly ones."

Turning on multinational polluters, the declaration states: "Corporations investing overseas would be expected to apply internationally acceptable standards or the best practicable technology, especially regarding pollution control, toxic substances and hazardous wastes."

"Domestic financing is necessary in addition to international financing," the declaration says. "Most countries in the region need to enhance fiscal measures for building a domestic capacity for environmental management," including tax incentives for installing pollution control equipment. □

Illiteracy waning, UNESCO says

THE NUMBER OF illiterate people in the world fell between 1985 and 1990—International Literacy Year—for the first time ever.

This, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which estimates the number of people who cannot read and write fell from some 950 million in 1985 to 948 million last year.

UNESCO says worldwide adult illiteracy dropped from around 38.5 per cent in 1970 to 26.6 per cent in 1990, and is expected to fall to 21.8 per cent in 2000.

"Encouraging as these statistics may be as proof that illiteracy can be vanquished, the progress they document is painfully slow. Through a happy coincidence, International Literacy Year may be looked upon as the turning point in the struggle for a literate world," a UNESCO report states. The report emphasizes the importance of women's literacy. □

Spreading the word in Zanzibar

by Paul Chintowa

THE EAST AFRICAN islands of Pemba and Zanzibar are working against time to spread knowledge of modern family planning. The islands make up the independent state of Zanzibar, within the United Republic of Tanzania.

Islam is often blamed for impeding government initiatives to raise family planning awareness among the islands' inhabitants. But Islamic clerics on the islands maintain their religion does not prevent married couples from practising family planning.

"We are teaching our people the importance of family planning to national socio-economic development," said Sheikh Yusuf Abdulrahaman, a *Qadi*, or Islamic judge in Zanzibar.

Abdulrahaman and another Zanzibari religious leader returned recently from a UNFPA-sponsored study tour to Egypt, where they discussed family planning with Islamic leaders and scholars.

The clerics have their work cut out for them. More than 95 per cent of Zanzibar's estimated 680,000 people are Muslims and they think family planning is a contravention of god's commandments, officials say. This, they say, has been a major challenge to the islands' two-year family planning programme, which was set up last year.

The programme aims to improve the health of mothers and children, the status of women, and the welfare of the community, and to lower the islands' fertility rate from around 7 children per woman aged 15-49, as measured by a 1988 census, to around 4, said Pasiens Mapunda, a medical doctor attached to the programme.

But because of a lack of family life education, women in Zanzibar often fail to avoid high-risk pregnancies—mainly those that occur before the age of 18 and after 35.

[The exact number of Zanzibari women who die each year from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth is not known. Limited surveys conducted in 1986 suggested a maternal mortality rate of 300 per 100,000 live births. But Jill Sheffield, president of Family Care International, a non-governmental organization, says the figure is "undoubtedly too low." She says government officials suspect the Zanzibari rate exceeds the national estimate of some 370 maternal deaths, and is rising.]

A recent survey by the Zanzibar family planning programme showed that women were still not aware of the programme's aims and services. About half of the 16,665 women who registered for family planning services when the programme started dropped out by last December. Experts attribute this to unfounded rumours that family planning would make women barren.

The Zanzibar government says it is determined to correct such misbeliefs.

Programme co-ordinator Anuni Sogora said government strategy aims to educate Islamic leaders on the importance of family planning. "Our goal is to involve sheikhs who will in turn spread the family planning message to their congregations," Sogora said.

Meanwhile, the media, particularly television, are giving the family planning programme centre stage. *(IPS)* □

News service hopes to reach field

THE UNFPA LIBRARY'S Current Population News service brings the world's press to computer users at headquarters. The library hopes to expand the service to field offices, but financial uncertainties loom over the future of the enterprise, which was launched in late April.

The service provides a daily update of news and feature stories on population and related issues, such as health, gender, and economic development.

Librarian David Rose describes Current Population News as "a departure from traditional library services." Before, he explains, "our habit was to respond" to requests for information, most commonly database searches for recent articles on given topics. The new service enables the library to give staffers information "before they ask for it, and before they're even aware of it."

Rose culls articles from electronic databases and puts them in the in-house electronic mail. Computer users at the UN Population Division, housed in a building a few minutes' walk away, are given access to the service through a computer link-up.

Currently, some 20 Fund staffers—or 8 per cent of headquarters computer users—consult the service daily, a "grave disappointment" for Rose, who says 50 daily "subscribers" would be a "more representative subset." There is a "lack of awareness among professional staff regarding the [service's] potential." One reason for this, he says, is that the library has focussed on developing the service at the expense of marketing.

Apart from keeping readers abreast of current events in areas related to UNFPA's work, he says, the service can ignite their curiosity and suggest areas for further investigation, independent or library-assisted. Rose says he hopes the service will become "part of the intellectual woodwork."

Increased demand for the service would make for a better-informed staff, but there is more at stake: The more users there are, the easier it is to "shake the money tree," he says.

The service costs about US$ 1,200 a month. Rose defends the expenditure as a better value than spending a similar sum on reference volumes and periodicals. He also says it saves money for additional staff who would otherwise be needed to sift through print sources.

Given sufficient funding, Rose hopes to make the service available to field offices through the global electronic mail system used by the United Nations Development Programme. He is exploring with other UN agencies the chances of adding to the service's list of sources, as well as its subscribers.

Rose says he is optimistic: "Feedback from the top management has been positive." □

For more information, contact the UNFPA library at (212) 297-5066.

A woman's place

IN SPITE OF some improvements in the past two decades, women remain substantially disadvantaged as compared to men. They still get unequal pay for equal work: a global average of 30 per cent less. And as urban women make gains, the lives of rural women—particularly in Africa—are deteriorating. These and other findings appear in *The World's Women, 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics*, the first-ever United Nations global report on women.

The book, released in late June, weighs five variables in assessing changes in the lives of women and men: family life, leadership and decision-making, health and child-bearing, education, and economic life. It is published jointly by the United Nations' Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Statistical Office, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Children's Fund, Development Fund for Women, and UNFPA.

"The report blazes a new trail in the dusty, dollar-fixated world of data gathering," Michele Landsberg wrote in the daily *Toronto Star*. "Instead of ignoring entire areas of human existence—for example, almost everything to do with women's lives and work—merely because the statistics don't already exist, the report zeroes in on crucially important issues, finds numbers to illuminate them, and uses words to interpret the numbers . . . The report is vibrantly written, with a forthrightness rare in UN documents."

Statistics were gathered from 178 countries. Among them, the number of woman-led families, contraceptive use and its relation to mortality rates, the hours per week spent fetching water (17.5 in Senegal), and the amount of carcinogens inhaled from cooking fuel in India (equal to smoking 20 packs of cigarettes a day).

Getting the statistics was no easy task. "The contributions of women are not completely measured," William Seltzer, director of the UN Statistical Office, told the Associated Press. "A classic example: A woman in the Third World holding a baby in one hand and feeding chickens with the other. A motherhood statistic? Agriculture?"

UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik stressed that economically active women worldwide continue to be active inside as well as outside the home. But she said it is "disturbing" that discussions on women frequently focus on their economic role, almost to the exclusion of their reproductive role, or vice versa. She pointed out that the new study examines the interconnections between women's reproductive, economic, and community roles.

The report contains ammunition for activists and reformers. For example:

- Studies in Malaysia show that the return on education (in wages and productivity) is consistently 20 per cent higher for girls than for boys. Yet schooling for girls is given lower priority in many countries.
- Some 80 per cent of Kuwaiti women interviewed in one study said they had at least one friend or relative who was a victim of violence; in Austria, domestic violence contributed to 59 per cent of 1,500 divorces. Yet most countries don't keep track of violence against women.
- Women who become pregnant in developing countries face a risk of death that is 80 to 600 times higher than in industrialized countries. "These are preventable deaths," said Dr. Sadik, who noted that many of these societies see reproduction as a woman's main function, but they fail to provide the essential health care to make the function a safe one.

The study may have hit home: A week before it was launched, Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, who wrote the preface, sent a circular to department heads at the UN, bemoaning the finding of an in-house survey that the organization remains rigidly male-dominated. He urged them to accelerate the "limited progress" made in correcting the discrimination, particularly in recruiting women to senior positions. □

The World's Women, 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics *available from United Nations Publications, 2 U.N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

AIDS
Viet Nam is setting up a special department to deal with AIDS amid fears of a "potential AIDS problem" when the country opens up to foreign tourism and business. The World Health Organization and the Pasteur Institute of Paris are helping to set up the department. As of June, only one person in the country had tested positive for the presence of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Condoms, widely considered the most effective form of sexual protection against infection, are produced in Viet Nam with UNFPA assistance.

APPOINTMENT
Theodore M. King is president of Family Health International, a United States-based non-governmental organization (NGO), effective 1 August. Dr. King was vice president for Medical Affairs at Johns Hopkins University and president of the Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics. A former president of the American Association of Planned Parenthood Physicians, he has published a number of papers on adolescent fertility, abortion, and female sterilization. He is also a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the International Women's Health Coalition, a New York-based NGO. For more information, contact: Family Health International, P.O. Box 13950, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, USA. Telephone: (919) 544-7040. Fax: (919) 544-7261.

ZAMBIA
Zambia's Minister of Labour, Social Development, and Culture Lavu Mulimba is calling for increased family planning counselling in a bid to stop teenage mothers from abandoning their unwanted children. On the television show "Good Morning Zambia," Mulimba said the rising incidence of child abandonment indicates a need for more counselling to help avoid teenage pregnancies, UNFPA Country Director Moses Mukasa reports from Lusaka.

RU 486
Britain is the second country after France to authorize sales of the RU 486 pill, which induces miscarriages during early pregnancy. The pill will be available only in state-run hospitals and clinics that carry out strictly controlled abortions under Britain's 1967 Abortion Act, not in pharmacies or other stores, according to Roussel Laboratories, manufacturer of RU 486. It will be used to abort foetuses up to the ninth week of pregnancy. China has approved, but not marketed, the pill.

ELDERLY
Rio de Janeiro, which will host the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development next year, has Brazil's oldest population, according to IBGE, the country's geographic and statistical institute. About nine per cent of the city's more than 10 million residents are older than 60, as compared to fewer than five per cent in smaller towns such as Belen, Brasilia, Goiania, and Recife, and a national average of about 7.5 per cent. IBGE attributes this in part to modern contraceptives, which it says are more commonly used in larger cities, including Puerto Alegre and Sao Paolo. Another factor, it says, is the movement of large families from rural areas to smaller cities and towns.

BOOM
Singapore expects a baby boom this year, according to Health Minister Yeo Cheow Tong. Yeo told state television on 10 July that births in the first four months of this year increased by 4.5 per cent over the same period last year. The island city-state expects to have between 52,500 and 53,000 babies this year, against last year's 51,000 and an official target of 50,000 births per year, he said. If the current trend continues, he added, births could surpass the 1988 record of 53,000. Singapore reversed its "two is enough" policy in the mid-1980s, and now exhorts couples to have "three or more" children if they can afford it.

WORLD POPULATION DAY was an even bigger success this year than last year, when it was first celebrated, UNFPA country offices and others report. Coverage will begin in next month's issue of *Population*.

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Editor-in-Chief: Hirofumi Ando
Editor: Alex Marshall

Population, the UNFPA monthly newsletter, may be obtained free of charge in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Fund. Short news items on population activities are cordially invited. These and notices of change of address should be sent to:

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Mongolia begins spacing births

MONGOLIA IS OVERTURNING years-old policies that outlawed contraceptives and encouraged women to have many children.

"Our women don't want only to bear children. They want to have an active life," Health Minister Pagbajabyn Nymadawa said at a 31 July press conference to announce the country's first national family planning and safe motherhood conference.

The conference, held last month in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, saw the launching of a policy that encourages women to have a three-year rest between children, and to complete their families by the age of 35.

The policy calls for a wide variety of contraceptives to be made available for Mongolians to choose from. UNFPA's supply operation is expected to expand to help meet the new, rising demand.

The new policy reflects growing concern about the country's high maternal and infant mortality rates and long-term development needs. It accompanies government moves to liberalize the economy.

"Earlier, we sought to increase population growth by encouraging a high birth rate. That was because our population of under 2 million people was considered very small in comparison to our country's land area," Nymadawa told *Population* earlier this year.

But with a maternal death rate of 140 for every 100,000 live births and an infant mortality rate of 65 for every 1,000 live births, the government was convinced of the need for birth spacing, he said.

UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik welcomed the new policy at the National Conference on 6 August, saying: "Improved status for women begins with better health; safe pregnancy and childbirth is the foundation on which better health is built."

"This is a wise and farsighted decision for three reasons," Dr. Sadik said. "First, the demographic consequences of high maternal mortality are directly opposed to national goals for population and economic growth." Second, its social consequences "affect the stability of the family, the development prospects of the community, and thus all prospects for development. The third reason is the individual tragedy and injustice of maternal mortality."

"The death of women as a result of pregnancy and childbirth is to a large extent unnecessary," she added. "The steps to achieve low maternal mortality are well-known and practical. They are also inexpensive, considering the importance of the results achieved."

Between 25 and 40 per cent of maternal deaths could be prevented if women could choose to avoid unwanted and poorly-planned pregnancies, Dr. Sadik said.

"Modern family planning technologies are available to suit women and men of all ages and stages of family formation," she added. "The choice of method should be a matter for decision by the couple concerned. It is therefore vitally necessary that as wide a choice as possible should be available."

Equally important for Mongolia, according to Dr. Sadik, is population education—which includes elements of hygiene and nutrition—for girls, and the education of men on maternal health issues.

Dr. Sadik pledged UNFPA's "unremitting support" for Mongolia's efforts to establish and implement a multi-sectoral population and development programme.

UNFPA's first country programme of assistance to the Mongolian People's Republic is slated to go before the Fund's Governing Council next year. At present, the Fund assists the government in maternal and child health, data collection and analysis, and supplying contraceptives. About half of the intra-uterine devices Mongolian women use were supplied by UNFPA, Minister Nymadawa told *Population* in April. □

UN debates Africa crisis

MEMBER STATES OF the United Nations are gathering in New York this month to debate the policies and measures needed to rescue Africa from poverty's tightening grip.

In a report prepared for the 3-13 September session of the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Whole of the UN General Assembly, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar called the continent's prolonged and severe economic troubles "the greatest developmental challenge of our time."

The three key issues to be discussed during the two-week session are commodity prices, resource flows, and external debt. Population also features prominently on the agenda; Africa has the world's highest fertility, birth, and death rates.

Debate will centre on the causes of the African crisis and the reasons for the disappointments of the 1986-90 United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. Participants will try to forge what organizers are calling a "new compact for co-operation": an agreement between Africa and those involved with it, about what needs to be done next.

Concern about Africa's woes has grown alongside awareness that the programme of action for the continent's development outlined in 1986 has failed to bring about the sustained recovery and development it was designed to promote.

Without effective solutions, the Secretary-General and others say, the reform and democratization process under way in Africa will be jeopardized.

Africa is home to 12 per cent of the world's people. Population growth rates exceeded economic growth rates in 32 African countries in the 1980s, according to UN figures. The continent's average annual population growth rate of 3 per cent for 1985-90 outraces all other regions. Without slower population

United Nations

What kind of future?

growth and dramatic increases in agriculture, it is expected that 19 African countries will be unable to feed their people from their own resources. Already, chronic food insecurity besets one in four Africans, according to a UNFPA study.

The continent's economic crisis—and the impact of many structural adjustment programmes—has made the implementation of effective population policies more difficult. Many countries have had no choice but to give up long-term economic development plans in favour of annual recovery plans from which a population component has generally been lacking. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is threatening to overwhelm already overburdened health-care systems in many Central and East African countries.

"The international community cannot fail" this time, the Pérez de Cuéllar report states. "At stake is [the community's] credibility and its ability to deal effectively with questions affecting its collective well-being and security." □

Britain launches population aid initiative

"I WANT BRITISH AID for population activities in developing countries to enable more women and men to decide the number of children they have, and to have children by choice, not chance," says Minister for Overseas Development Lynda Chalker.

"British aid must help establish good quality reproductive health services overseas, and assist governments to formulate sensible population policies," Chalker said in London on 5 August, at a press briefing held to unveil the Overseas Development Administration's (ODA) latest initiative in population and development.

The plan calls for a heavier emphasis on population in ODA advocacy and funding. It "has been born out of the emerging consensus which recognizes the importance of population in development," Chalker said, adding: "We hope that it will be matched by increased activity on the part of all aid donors."

The economies of developing countries are being worsened by rapid population growth which "will also jeopardize efforts to improve health standards and exacerbate environmental problems," she said.

Noting that an estimated 100 million women and men want to use, but cannot get, modern contraception, she said ODA's immediate priority will be to "ensure that reproductive health services meet the demands of couples who want to choose when to have children."

Under the plan, British aid will seek to improve the coverage and quality of reproductive health services; improve the reliability of contraceptive supplies; enable women to take greater control over their lives and reproductive decisions; and help countries develop population policies.

The plan includes 15 new projects and is aimed primarily at eight priority countries: Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

In addition to such bilateral projects, the initiative calls for aid to be channeled through "multilateral agencies, particularly" UNFPA, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Chalker committed ODA to participating "fully" in UNFPA-WHO efforts to establish mechanisms for donors to work together to safeguard contraceptive supplies for developing countries, and to develop more cost-effective procurement and distribution systems.

She also said ODA would ensure "that population retains a high profile on the development agenda," and encourage governments "to increase the portion of domestic expenditure allocated to social development activities" including family planning.

"The challenges are enormous," she concluded. "If we fail, it is future generations that will have to pay the price."

"Children By Choice, Not Chance," the name of the initiative, comes as Britain's National Health Service reviews its family planning programme on orders from Health Minister Virginia Bottomley. Spurred by protests over family planning clinic closures, Bottomley is also asking health authorities to contact employers to consider how family planning advice could be provided in the workplace. □

World's people celebrate, reflect on their day

PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD marched in parades and gathered at sporting events and concerts to celebrate World Population Day 1991 on 11 July. There was much discussion of population issues, too: by participants in conferences, by young essayists and artists, and by those who watched, listened to, or read special features in their local, national, and international media.

Reports from the field are still coming in, but press clips and a preliminary report by the Day's organizers suggest this year's commemorations struck a deep cord: In many countries, official observances lasted a week or longer, and several countries used the occasion to launch new population policies or initiatives, or to publicize the results of recent censuses and demographic surveys.

Observances lasted one week or longer in Benin, Tunisia, Fiji, and Peru, among other countries. In Mozambique, World Population Day was announced on radio and television as early as June.

Pakistan launched a new population programme on 11 July. Under the new plan, family planning objectives will be combined with the government's health, education, and communication goals.

In nearby Myanmar, formerly Burma, Health Minister Col. Pe Thein told an official gathering: "Our country is rich in natural resources . . . In fact, we need not worry about a food problem. But if there is no systematic control we may face a population boom one day." Pe Thein broke the government's years-old taboo on discussing family planning on World Population Day last year.

The Yemeni daily *Al-Thawra* featured an article by the Minister of Planning and Development, stating the government's commitment to develop a comprehensive population policy at a national population conference slated for October.

Countries which used World Population Day to publicize or discuss national censuses included Mauritania, which also issued a commemorative stamp; Namibia, which is conducting a head-count this month; and Zaire.

In other countries, celebrations included family planning puppet shows, skits, and traditional dramas; folk dances; and, in the Indian Ocean's Rodrigues Island, soccer, volleyball, and cross-country running competitions for the World Population Day Challenge Cup.

World Population Day was first observed as an annual event last year, although its origins can be traced back to the Day of Five Billion, 11 July 1987—the approximate date on which Earth's five billionth human occupant was born.

"Last year, over 90 countries around the world marked World Population Day. This year's event was an even greater success—receiving unprecedented media coverage, and with more countries, non-governmental organizations, United Nations specialized agencies and Information Centres, inter-governmental organizations, academic and training institutes, communities, schools, and individuals than ever before joining UNFPA in commemorating the occasion," a preliminary UNFPA report states.

UNFPA country offices, governments, and centres of learning are among those to report widespread use and appreciation of materials specially prepared by the Fund's Editorial, Publications and Media Services Branch. These included a poster and portable exhibition, the film "Planned Families, Better Lives," and the second edition of the annual *Population Issues Briefing Kit*. They also cited extra demand for UNFPA's *The State of World Population 1991*, released in May, for use on World Population Day.

According to the preliminary report, World Population Day 1991 events so far have been reported in the following 101 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Soviet Union, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, and Zambia. □

UNFPA

Celebration: Primary school students in Benin.

Environment a big issue

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS featured prominently on World Population Day. In Bangladesh, for example, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated official observances on 11 July by warning of a "serious disaster" if population growth is not checked in the climatically vulnerable country. Meanwhile, more than 280 Bangladeshi college students took part in a national essay contest on "Population Explosion and the Environment."

Festivities took place in all but 10 of Bangladesh's districts, UNFPA Country Director S.K. Alok reports from Dhaka—these 10 being the districts worst hit by the cyclone that lashed the country's coast on the night of 29 April. Bangladesh also observes National Population Day every year on 2 February.

In Tokyo, 1991 United Nations Population Award winner Julia Henderson told a symposium organized by the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning: "Everywhere families must be conscious of our obligation to limit our numbers so that our natural resources of land, water, and clean air will be adequate to sustain the human race."

The Mauritian non-governmental organization (NGO) *Action Familiale* held a seminar on population and the environment. Mozambican television aired a special programme on population as part of its "Environmental Problems" series.

In the United States, prominent environmental groups such as the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club took the lead in organizing community events and legislative campaigns. □

Fast-growing populations seen as threatening democracy

"NOT ONLY IS the environment under threat, but the economic basis needed for a democratic society is being undermined by the adverse consequences of rapid population growth," UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik said at a press conference in Tanzania on the eve of World Population Day.

"In the developing world, rapid population growth is contributing to mounting poverty and the destruction of natural resources. The increasing numbers in rural areas are leading to large-scale migrations to urban areas in search of jobs or means of subsistence which, in turn, is resulting in grotesquely swollen cities," Dr. Sadik told journalists.

She continued: "In many developing countries, growth pressures are such that they make it impossible for governments to meet even basic needs for education, health, and employment for their burgeoning populations."

"However, there is hope," she added.

UNFPA

Reflection: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing Bangladeshis on 11 July.

"Overall world population growth is slowing and many countries have implemented successful population programmes during the past two decades. And, for the first time in history, the nations of the world are pledged to achieving stable global population and bringing it into balance with the resources needed to support it."

Dr. Sadik was in Tanzania for consultations with the government and with the leaders of the family planning programme. During the press conference, she said UNFPA assistance to Africa had more than doubled over the last four years. □

CNN spreads the word

THE ATLANTA-BASED, internationally-viewed CNN (Cable News Network) devoted an entire edition of its weekly CNN World Report to population-related issues. The programme, "Population: Choice or Chance?" was aired for two hours on Sunday, 7 July, and for three hours on Monday, 8 July.

The programme was seen on CNN in more than 120 countries, CNN spokesperson Adrianne Proeller told *Population*. CNN World Report is also rebroadcast by "scores of broadcasters around the world," she said.

More than 40 countries contributed to the special programme, which covered topics ranging from safe motherhood to urbanization, and which included two interviews with UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik.

Excerpts from the programme were used in CNN's Daily World Report and evening news for 11 July, and its Future Watch programme on Saturday, 13 July.

Executives say CNN has since received a number of requests for copies of the programme. The requests have come from schools, universities, and public service organizations.

Other global broadcasts included a 14-minute programme produced by United Nations Radio and a special edition of "Population Update," a periodic programme by independent radio producer Fred Hift. The UNFPA film "Planned Families, Better Lives" was aired on television in a number of countries. □

New urgency in Thai AIDS fight

by Yuli Ismartono

IN THAILAND, the government, private hospitals, and religious groups are taking urgent measures to stem the alarming spread of AIDS.

In Bangkok, the government announced recently it would introduce a bill to allow women infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, to seek legal abortions.

With the increasing number of mothers giving birth to HIV-positive babies, some private-run hospitals have begun requiring pregnant women patients to be tested for the infection.

Religious leaders in the predominantly Muslim provinces of southern Thailand are for the first time preaching against the dangers of AIDS during weekly prayers at the mosque.

The nightmare that health experts had been warning about has arrived in Thailand. AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is no longer confined to drug addicts, homosexuals, and prostitutes. It has become an "equal opportunity" disease, affecting all levels of society.

"When we first began testing, most of the positive cases were from high-risk groups like intravenous drug users," said Dr. Wimon Siriwasin of Rajavithi Hospital in Bangkok. "Now most of the positive cases are labourers or housewives, members of the general population."

Results of the tests taken in the first six months of last year among 3,568 pregnant women at Bangkok's Ramathibodi Hospital yielded two HIV-positive cases. By the end of the year, the number had risen to nine out of 5,455 patients. Four women tested positive in the first seven weeks of 1991.

Interviews revealed that although the women themselves do not show high-risk behaviour, their husbands generally frequent prostitutes and refuse to wear condoms.

At the Rajavithi Hospital in Bangkok, of the 51 positive cases among the pregnant women tested since May, three were intravenous drug users, 17 had husbands who frequented prostitutes, nine had multiple sex partners, 10 were prostitutes, and 12 had undetermined backgrounds.

A survey of more than 600 Thai males by a social research group revealed that 75 per cent had had sex with prostitutes. Forty-four per cent had their first sexual experience with a prostitute by the age of 18, and 26 per cent had multiple partners in the last six months.

More alarming was the revelation that 59 per cent of Thai men surveyed never used a condom, and 86 per cent said they felt they had little likelihood of getting AIDS.

Estimates of the number of AIDS cases in Thailand range from the Ministry of Public Health's 25,000 to the figure of as many as 200,000 used by non-governmental groups such as the Population and Community Development Association.

Concerned about the increasing number of drug users in the South, health officials have convinced Muslim leaders to support the anti-AIDS campaign in their *khutbahs*, or sermons. The use of condoms, hitherto discouraged because of religious opposition to family planning, is now being strongly promoted as one method of protection against the deadly disease.

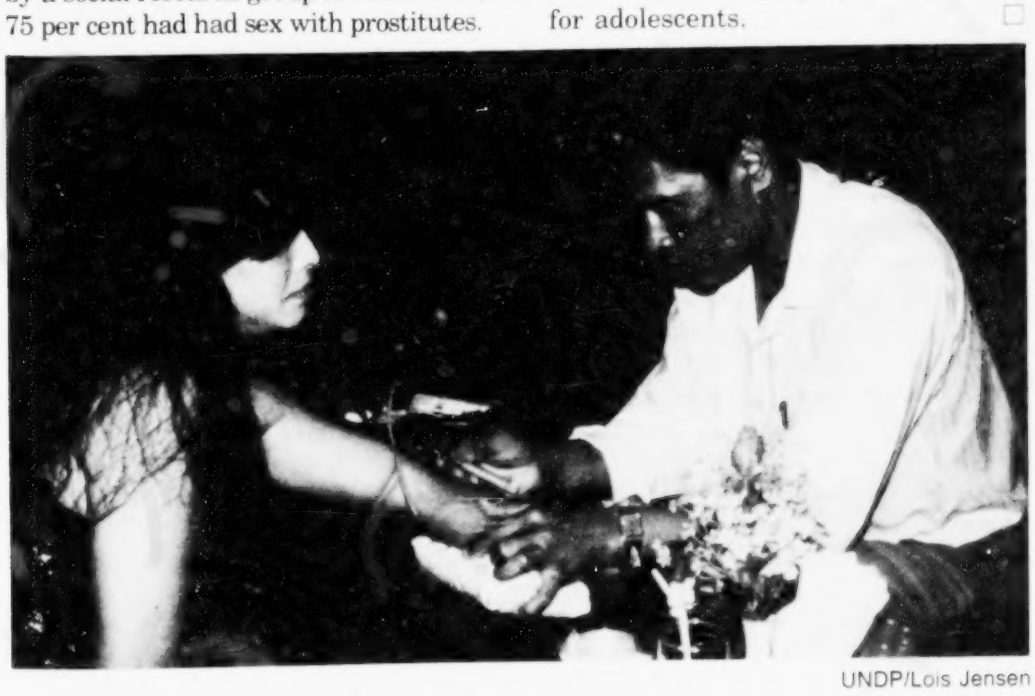
About 300 people in Thailand's southernmost province, Pattani, have tested HIV-positive. Sixty-two per cent of them are intravenous drug users.

"We need to take action before the problems of drug addiction and AIDS become a threat to the survival of the Muslim people here," said Haji Wahab, a Muslim leader in Pattani.

In northern Thailand, officials are also concerned by reports that secondary school students in Chiang Mai province have been exposed to the disease.

"AIDS is no longer just a health or medical problem, but a very real social one," said Public Health Minister Dr. Pairote Ningsanonda. *(IPS)*

Population adds: Pattani is one of four border provinces in which a UNFPA-supported project seeks to increase contraceptive use. Nationwide, family planning information, education, and communication—with particular importance attached to AIDS education—commands almost half of the five-year budget for maternal and child health/family planning activities under UNFPA's programme of assistance to Thailand. In 1987, the Fund set up a family life education and counselling project specially for adolescents. □



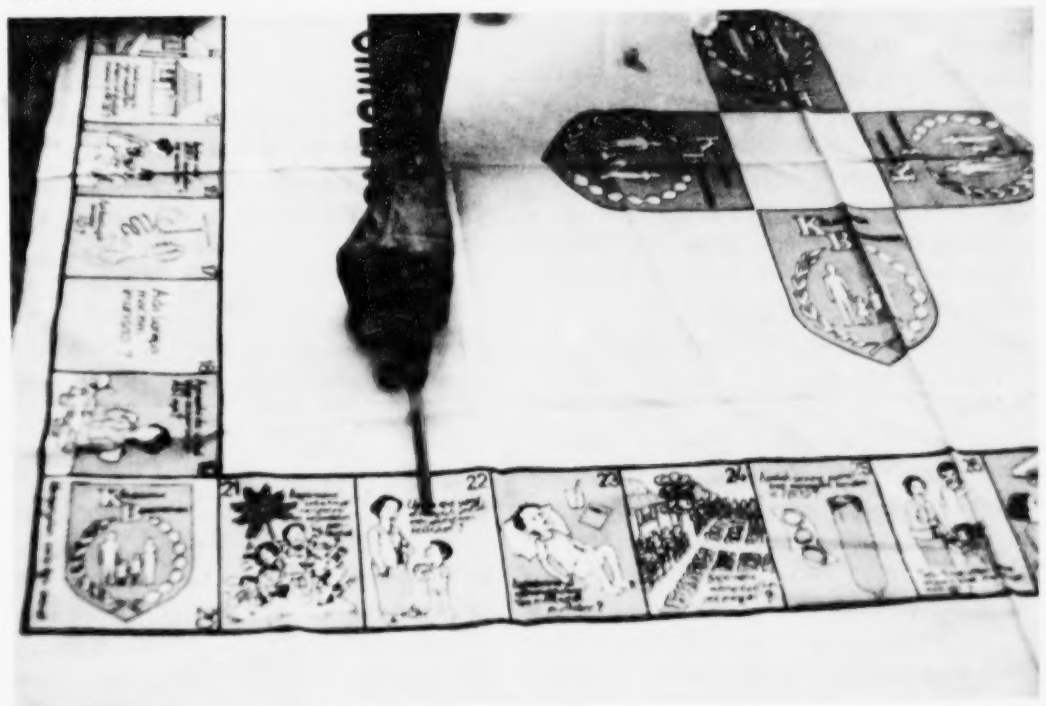
UNDP/Lois Jensen

Testing for AIDS in a Bangkok nightclub.

Indonesia's family planning game

Population takes a quick look at community involvement in Indonesia's family planning programme. Photos and text by Sietske Steneker.

At the Pos Yandu *(integrated service post) in Tanah Abang, Jakarta, neighbours gather to play games designed to inform them about family planning, mother and child health, and nutrition.*



The games, based on such old favourites as monopoly, were developed in 1986 under a UNFPA-supported information, education, and communication project, and have been in use throughout the country since May 1987.

A posyandu, *or community gathering at an integrated service post, is usually held once a month at the home of a community member. A doctor, nurse, family planning field worker, and community volunteers provide prenatal care to expectant mothers, weigh and measure babies ("growth monitoring," in programme jargon), and vaccinate infants against common, potentially fatal diseases. There are typically between 15 and 20 volunteers for every 200 households. Here, a family planning field worker explains modern contraceptives. Programmers credit the* Pos Yandu *with being the mainstay of Indonesia's community-based strategy for providing primary health care and family planning services.* □

A challenge called Namibia

This month's census will provide the basis of Namibia's first national development plan. In the meanwhile, UNFPA-supported projects are trying to meet urgent needs. Former Fund staffer Svenja Korth reports from Windhoek.

ON THE FACE OF IT, a population smaller than that of the city of Paris living in a country larger than France should pose no urgent priorities for 18-month-old Namibia.

Not so.

The government presumes, since there are no reliable data, that Namibia's population growth rate is 3.5 per cent per year. This portends serious problems for the country's fragile health and education systems, water supply and sanitation services, and the people's nutrition.

The United Nations estimates there are 1.8 million Namibians. Official French estimates put the population of the city of Paris at 2.09 million;10 million, if you count its suburbs and satellites.

Namibia's population is unevenly distributed; between 55 and 70 per cent are thought by the government to live in the north, particularly in the Ovamboland farming region. This, combined with uneven income distributions, makes planning and providing essential services a difficult task for the government as well as UNFPA's programme of assistance.

The absence of adequate, accurate and up-to-date population data is a fundamental and far-reaching problem for development planners and programmers. Existing data on the country's population and social structure are sparse and date back 10 years or more, to a time when Namibia was under *apartheid* rule. This is why the government and UNFPA are setting such great store by this month's national population and housing census.

The census is regarded by government and international agencies alike as the foundation stone for future development. As one government brochure on the census puts it: "To plan for Namibia, we need to know all about the people." The country's first national development plan is slated to begin in 1993.

In particular, the government sees the census as essential in enabling it to fulfill its commitment to "Health for all Namibians by 2000." So much so, that it intensified its efforts to ensure the people's participation in the head-count by launching a publicity campaign on 11 July, World Population Day.

The UNFPA-supported census is being executed by the government and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, and is being financed by the Finnish government. Previous censuses covered only parts of the country, and are thought by government and other analysts to have ignored significant portions of the majority indigenous population.

Although the census is a foundation stone, UNFPA-assisted projects are already in place, to help meet urgent needs. The Fund works closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Services in training nurses and primary health-care workers in maternal and child health and family planning, including contraceptive technology, and collecting health statistics. Such skills are in short supply outside the capital of Windhoek and Namibia's few other major cities. The project concentrates on rural areas, particularly in Ovamboland and the densely-populated north.

The Namibian Institute for Social and Economic Research and UNFPA are jointly undertaking a study of the prevalence, use, and abuse of modern contraceptive methods. The study is slated to end later this year. Its findings are expected to be of immediate use in determining the most suitable mix of contraceptive methods for Namibians to choose from.

In the pipeline is a UNFPA-supported information, education, and communication project bringing together the ministries of health and social services, education, information and broadcasting, and the women's affairs department. It intends to spread awareness of population and development issues through the available media of radio and television. As Nashilongo Elago of the Department of Women's Affairs recently told Inter Press Service, Namibia has virtually no family counselling centres, other than those provided by churches. Sex is a taboo subject, she said, so most youth discover the "realities of life" from their peers. For boys, manhood is measured by the number of girls they can make pregnant, she added.

The chances that development projects in Namibia will be successful will improve once census findings have been analysed—that is, once it is known how many Namibians there are, where and how they live, what they do, and what they need. □

NAMIBIANS NEED...
BETTER HOUSING
IMPROVED COMMUNICATION
BETTER CARE FOR MOTHERS & CHILDREN
LITERACY & EDUCATION
INCREASED POWER & WATER SUPPLY
MORE JOBS
AND MORE
POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS NAMIBIA 1991
MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED
ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN PLANNING THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA
PARTICIPATE IN THE CENSUS

Government poster.

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• Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) Reports present the findings of the latest PRSD mission to a given country. The PRSD is a UNFPA exercise undertaken in collaboration with the government concerned, in order to develop a coherent and comprehensive framework for a national population programme. The PRSD analyses the current status and needs, assesses the achievements of past population activities, and recommends future action. Reports are available for Bangladesh, Ecuador, and the Syrian Arab Republic. Priced at US$ 15.00 each.

• These are the latest titles in the Division's occasional "Report" series: *Albania; Family Planning, Fertility Decline and Child Survival; Research on Socio-cultural Factors Affecting Family Planning Programmes in Developing Countries;* and *Women, Population and Development*. Issues covered by experts in this series of publications include: new developments in contraceptive technology; maternal and child care theory and practice; and policy formulation. Priced at US$ 5.00 each.

• The "Evaluation Report" series presents the findings and conclusions of independent evaluations made of UNFPA-supported projects. The latest title is *Global Programme of Training in Population and Development*. Priced at US$ 10.00.

Reference volumes from UNFPA:

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• The *Inventory of Population Projects in Developing Countries Around the World*, an annual publication, shows what international organizations are doing in the population field, and is compiled from information provided by these organizations, be they multilateral, regional, bilateral, or non-governmental organizations. The volume's three sections cover Country Programmes; Regional, Interregional, and Global Programmes; and Sources. It provides thumb-nail sketches of the demographic situation and government views on population issues in 136 countries. The 1989/90 edition is now available in English (French available in December 1991) at a cost of US$ 20.00.

• *Guide to Sources of International Population Assistance 1991* is the sixth edition of this triennial publication. It provides a portrait and the addresses of each of 223 outfits, including multilateral, regional, and bilateral organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, university centres, research institutions, and training organizations worldwide. Available in English (French and Spanish available in November 1991) at a cost of US$ 20.00.

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